

The Punta Gorda Herald

A. P. JORDAN Editor

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Marian Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida.

FTONR 17—Both Local and Long Distance

Entered at the Punta Gorda Postoffice as second class matter

Subscription Rates—One year, \$1.50; six mos. 75 cents; three months, 50 cents.

Advertising Rates—Space rates depend greatly on position in the paper and will be furnished on application. Local notices, 10 cents per line each insertion. Legal advertisements will be published only at rates prescribed by law.

Remittances should be made by check, postal note, money order or registered letter; 1 cent stamps will be received in payment of small amounts.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1908.

Patience and perseverance will presently place Punta Gorda on the pinnacle of prosperity.

Editor W. B. Crawford of the Pensacola News, is giving the people of that city one of the best evening papers in Florida.

Letters from our editor, who is at Dothan, Ala., report that the fever left him last week and he is likely to return in a few days.

With its last issue the Fort Pierce News entered upon the sixth year of its useful career. May it continue to flourish and prosper.

That Florida stood ninth in the list of Southern States in the value of the mineral output for last year further illustrates her importance, but her future is yet untold.

Eighty-eight subscribers, who paid up their arrearages to the Starke Telegraph have thereby put the editor of that paper in line for a merry Christmas.

The retirement of A. Max Wilson, until recently editor of the Blountstown Democrat, from active newspaper work is regretted by his many friends of the Florida press.

The installation of two new presses, one a jobber and the other a fast newspaper press, by the Miami News-Record, is evidence of the deserved prosperity that paper is enjoying.

J. Ira Gore, the able city editor of the Times-Union has been compelled by failing health to give up his work on that paper, but his friends of the State press trust that he may be able to resume his duties after a short period of rest and recuperation as he hopes to do.

THE HERALD concurs with the other members of the Florida press in their expressions of sympathy for Editor Willis M. Ball of the Times-Union, in the death of his mother, Mrs. Christina E. Ball, which occurred recently at Tallahassee. Mrs. Ball was the widow of Major Glover Allan Ball of the Confederate army and was 71 years old.

Gea, what a lot of talk was created by the rumor of an extra session of the legislature! And even now that Governor Broward says there is no necessity for an extra session and it will not be called, the matter is still the subject for much comment. If the Governor ever contemplated the move, a notch should be made for him in that he has decided otherwise.

Repression of Crime.

In the humble opinion of THE HERALD, Florida's greatest need today is not immigration or good roads so much as it is the adequate protection of human life and property through the repression of crime.

It must be admitted, we think, that human life in this State is by no means as well protected as it should be. Murders are and have been appallingly frequent and but few murderers are punished. This lamentable condition is due to several causes, which may be summed up as the uncertainty of detection, the uncertainty of conviction and the uncertainty of punishment. A knowledge of these three things is the inspiration, so to speak, of every murder committed.

If a man contemplating the perpetration of murder felt sure that he would be detected and hung, it is very unlikely that he would carry out his intention. Now, what we need to do is to convince those who are criminally inclined that there are ninety-nine chances in a hundred against them, instead of, as at present, ninety-nine in a hundred in their favor.

How is this to be done? First, by the enactment of the law advocated by General Gilchrist in his primary campaign, abolishing technicalities in all proceedings in which they tend to defeat or delay the ends of justice. This proposition was fully set forth in General Gilchrist's speeches, in which he quoted the resolutions on the subject adopted by the Alabama Bar Association, and his position was endorsed by the leading papers of the State and by a majority of 9,000 of those who voted in the second primary. Governor Gilchrist will no doubt recommend this reform in his first message to the legislature; and if that body fails to act accordingly, it will be grossly recreant to its trust and grossly neglectful of the interests of the State.

Of course, no law can be devised that would facilitate the detection of crime; but the loopholes of technicalities being closed, the second thing to be done is to educate jurors as to their duty and the sentimental press as to the evil it is doing.

Herein lies the most difficult part of the undertaking to repress crime,—to convince tender-hearted editors that their sympathy for criminals is misplaced and utterly inexcusable. In dealing with law-breakers who are in the toils, some influential editors proceed upon the presumption that the criminals are simply unfortunate and very probably innocent, or, if guilty, should be dealt with leniently to the end that they be converted into good and law-abiding citizens.

The idea of making good citizens of those who are guilty of such an atrocity as wilful and premeditated murder, is simply ridiculous. Sympathy for them is not merely foolish, but almost monstrous. They neither deserve nor appreciate it.

We believe in treating criminals with humanity, just as we would not torture a rattlesnake or a man-eating tiger; but those who have knowingly and willfully violated the law should be made to pay the penalty.

Editors whose duty it is to insist upon a prompt and efficient enforcement of the law and to educate the public mind to this end, should ponder the following clipping from the Pathfinder:

"In the opinion of Attorney-Gen. Bonaparte, the rule of the American people is thwarted by the delays in our courts, due to

trivial and technical reasons. In a speech before the National Municipal league at Pittsburg, he asked, "why need there be a foretaste of eternity between arrest and indictment, another between trial and actual punishment? The failure of American criminal law, he said, is largely due to its anxiety to guard against the danger, once great but now small of punishing an innocent person. "The risk," he said, "that any man trying in good faith to obey the law shall be punished as a criminal is almost inconceivably small. I question whether it is one hundredth part as great as the risk he runs of being killed or maimed by an automobile."

"When the people of an American state or the American nation decree death to whomsoever shall do thus and thus, and let the transgressor live for months and years while lawyers wrangle and juries disagree and judges reverse each other, there is room for doubt, and doubt in fact, whether the state or nation does, in truth, mean business. That sovereign punishes with double efficacy and with triple certainty who punishes while the crime is rank and recent."

Punta Gorda Dock is now in actual process of construction. We learn that some one asked the Gov. Elect, Gilchrist to appoint him Harbor Master. He replied, that such an appointment would be simply a tax on the commerce of the port. Vessels do not require the services of a harbor master. It would be simply giving the individual pay at the expense of the public good. He furthermore stated that the same condition would apply to the port of Boca Grande. From this it appears that the interest of the public would be considered rather than the interest of the individual.

The price of printing paper has been high enough all along, but the last increase amounting to ten per cent. on the old price will be felt by all publishers, and the intimation that another advance may be looked for shortly will call for some serious reflections. The reason given for the gradually increasing of the price is the short supply caused by dry weather necessitating the shutting down of pulp mills in certain sections of the country.

That excellent South Florida daily the Tampa Tribune has begun the publication of a Monday morning issue, which is in keeping with its enterprise and efforts to give its constituents a daily second to none. With seven issues a week, it will more easily maintain its popularity with the reading public of this part of the State.

Missimsee valley Gazette—We have all along contended that Florida would produce almost anything grown on this earth, but it never occurred to us that our soil was peculiarly adapted to the growing of mulberry trees for silk worm culture. Having learned that fact, we can now claim this state leads the world in anything and everything.

Jacksonville Metropolis—Governor Albert W. Gilchrist, who will take his seat as the State's chief executive January 4th, will formally open the Fair at Tampa February 3d, this being one of his first conspicuous official acts. On this occasion he will be accompanied by his staff and by many prominent Floridians.

Congress is now in session.

FOR SALE!

Desirable Site for All-the-year-round or Winter Home.

About two acres situated in Solana on south shore Charlotte Harbor, near mouth Peace River, 1 1/2 miles from churches, schools, postoffice, telegraph office and railroad depot.

Thoroughly cleared, fenced and ready for immediate cultivation. Sea-wall of field stone along entire water front and that of property adjoining. Owing to continued ill-health am compelled to sell this beautiful suburban location on which had intended to build a home.

Bargain to Quick Buyer!

JNO. H. FARRINGTON,
Punta Gorda, Fla.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

An attractive line of high-class Perfumes in Cut-Glass Bottles,

BEST GRADES OF
Talcum Powders, Combs, Brushes, Mirrors, Tooth
Brushes, Toilet Soaps, Writing Materials, Etc.

And keep in mind our Prescription Department when you need anything in this line.
WATKINS DRUG CO., OPPOSITE HOTEL PUNTA GORDA,
PUNTA GORDA, FLA.

Turner's New Jewelry Store,

712 Franklin Street,
Tampa, Fla.

For Watches, Diamonds and all kinds of Jewelry, we are the people. In Solid Silver and Silver Plated Ware of all kinds we have a splendid line; in Silver Novelties, Ladies' Leather Bags, Fancy Boxes, you will find an elegant line. Beautiful umbrellas, fine looking Glasses and Clocks. We have a splendid selection in Watch work or Jewelry work; we can't be beaten. You can send your work to us, and have it returned with safety. As reference we give you the Editor of this paper, that you will be treated right.

R. L. TURNER,
TAMPA, FLORIDA.

One Moment, Please!

Our line is up-to-date in every respect, and prices are so low that you need not think of going out of town to buy goods.

Staple & Fancy GROCERIES & First-Class.

No trouble to call and get your order, and we deliver to all parts of the city.

Remember We also have a choice line of Florida and Western Fresh Meats which are sold at lowest prices.

Fruits, Vegetables,
and Country
Produce

We keep all the time, and will be pleased to have a share of your patronage.

FRANK R. BLOUNT,

'Phone 35

Punta Gorda, Florida.